



H1N1 Provider Briefing

Date: December 14, 2009
To: All Healthcare Providers
From: Director of Health, David R. Gifford, MD, MPH
Re: Information on H1N1 in Rhode Island

Local Influenza Activity Level: Widespread¹; H1N1 predominant circulating strain

Rhode Island²: 354 hospitalized cases, 9 deaths

Sentinel Surveillance (% of visits due to influenza-like illness)³: Rhode Island: 2.37%, New England Region: 2.10%, Nation: 2.74%

H1N1 vaccine for adults with chronic illnesses and young adults

Providers (including outpatient medical practices, community health centers, and hospitals) with more than 100 patients in their practices who have enrolled in the H1N1 vaccine program and ordered vaccine should receive their first deliveries this week. Through the end of December, HEALTH is asking providers to focus on vaccinating the following high-risk patients:

- Young adults through 24 years of age
- Adults through 64 years of age with chronic illnesses
- Staff members in your practice with direct patient care

Due to delivery restrictions, practices that could not use a minimum of 100 doses for their adult patients with chronic illnesses and their young adult patients will be receiving vaccine at a later date. HEALTH will communicate delivery information to these providers as it becomes available.

HEALTH will send an email and attempt to call providers when an order has been placed on their behalf, so they know when to expect a delivery of vaccine to their offices. HEALTH will only be delivering to hospitals and health centers between December 24, 2009 and January 3, 2010. Providers in private practices who will be unavailable for vaccine delivery outside of that time period or who have questions about order specifications should contact HEALTH at vaccine@health.ri.gov.

Hospital providers may administer H1N1 vaccine to their inpatient AND outpatient populations who meet the above criteria. Please note that patients must be fever-free for 24 hours prior to vaccine administration.

To enroll in the H1N1 vaccine provider program, edit original enrollment information, or complete a priority group breakdown, see <http://pandemic.health.ri.gov/h1n1/>. For vaccine order assistance, please contact HEALTH at vaccine@health.ri.gov. To read a special December 10 briefing for adult providers, see <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/Briefings/provider121009.pdf>.

Conference call for adult vaccine providers

HEALTH will hold a conference call for adult providers on H1N1 vaccine delivery and usage on Tuesday, December 15th at 7:30 a.m. Providers interested in participating may call 1-888-757-2748 and enter the passcode 546928.

¹ Rhode Island reported widespread activity for the week of November 29 to December 5, 2009. Percentages of influenza-like illness remain above baseline and influenza lab confirmed cases were reported in over half of the state's 5 regions. For details see <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/surveillance/>.

² Confirmed and probable H1N1 hospitalizations and deaths since September 1, 2009

³ Influenza-like illness activity reported by 27 sentinel surveillance sites from November 29 to December 5, 2009

Use of live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV)

The live attenuated H1N1 intranasal vaccine should be administered to all patients for whom it is appropriate. LAIV is approved for adults through 49 years of age who are not pregnant and who do not have certain health conditions. Injectable H1N1 vaccine should continue to be prioritized for patients who cannot receive the intranasal vaccine. Please see the H1N1 LAIV Vaccine Information Statement for a complete list of contraindications to the intranasal vaccine: http://www.immunize.org/vis/h1n1_liveflu.pdf.

Reporting doses of H1N1 vaccine administered

Reporting H1N1 doses administered is a requirement for participation in the vaccine program. All vaccine providers are reminded to submit reports of H1N1 vaccine administered electronically on a weekly basis to HEALTH. HEALTH monitors these reports closely and makes decisions about vaccine allocation, redistribution between practices, and changes in priority groups based on the uptake of vaccine in each of your practices. **Failure to report administered doses in a timely fashion may result in a delay in further shipments of H1N1 vaccine.** For instructions and to report doses administered, see <http://pandemic.health.ri.gov/h1n1/>.

H1N1 school-based clinic vaccine uptake

113,297 school-aged children have received the H1N1 vaccine over the first 25 days of HEALTH's 28-school-day H1N1 school-based vaccination program. Of the currently enrolled students in schools with clinics held during this time period, 74% received the vaccine.

H1N1 vaccination for school-aged children in providers' offices

As of December 16, pediatricians and family physicians may begin administering H1N1 vaccine to children in kindergarten through grade 12 who missed their **first doses** at their schools' H1N1 vaccination clinics. HEALTH is still planning to provide second doses of H1N1 vaccine to school-aged children (K-12) who are younger than 10 years of age in a second round of school-based clinics in January and February. Children who are 10 years of age and older do not require second doses of H1N1 vaccine.

H1N1 vaccination of clinical staff members

Obstetric and pediatric providers may now vaccinate clinical staff members from office vaccine supply, if available. Otherwise, vaccination will be available for healthcare workers in January via points-of-dispensing (POD) clinics in Rhode Island's Healthcare Service Regions (HSRs).

H1N1 vaccination for healthcare workers and first responders

HEALTH is currently planning to hold H1N1 vaccination point-of-dispensing (POD) clinics for non-hospital based healthcare workers and first responders on January 9 and 10, 2009. PODs are being organized by the lead acute care hospital in each of Rhode Island's 10 Healthcare Service Regions (HSRs). **Healthcare workers and first responders may receive the H1N1 vaccine at the POD clinic organized by the HSR in which they work.** HEALTH will communicate additional information about these clinics as it becomes available. For up to date information or to download H1N1 vaccine consent forms, see <http://www.health.ri.gov/facilities/hospitals/about/serviceregions/>. For a listing of POD clinic locations, see <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/HSRFluVaccinationClinics.pdf>.

H1N1 vaccination clinic for Rhode Island residents in out-of-state colleges and universities

HEALTH has extended the pre-registration deadline for the H1N1 vaccination clinic for Rhode Island students through age 24 who attend out-of-state colleges and universities to Monday, December 21, 2009. The exact clinic date, location, and hours of operation will be announced when available. Only students who have pre-registered will be able to attend the clinic. The online registration form is available at <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/schoolh1n1clinics/outofstatecollegeclinics/index.php>.

H1N1 vaccination schedule

For a schedule containing H1N1 vaccine information for different subsets of the population, including groups prioritized for vaccination, see <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/H1N1FluVaccinationChart.pdf>.

Resources

- HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov>;
- Archived provider briefings and regular news updates: <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/flu/>
- H1N1 Information Line (M-F 8:30am- 4:30pm) 401-222-8022
- H1N1 email address h1n1@health.ri.gov
- <http://www.flu.gov>